



Wycombe Womens Aid – Mike Appleyard and Chloe Willetts

Part 1

Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Partnerships

The County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Partnerships is seeking to find out as much as possible about the way that the County Council's partnerships with voluntary organisations work. Clearly, if a full picture is to be built up, it is important to know the views of voluntary organisations. Therefore, it would be very helpful to have answers to the following questions.

How would your organisation define a partnership?

Personal contacts with the following organisations:

**WDC – Housing
Samaritans**

**Police
Domestic Violence**

**BCC – Social Services
Hospitals**

Does your organisation feel that the County Council treats it as a partner and values the relationship? If not, what should the Council do to improve the situation?

Yes – Individual Social Workers

SLA – used to be discussed annually but not done now – therefore lack of contact

Concern about Social Services splitting children/adults/OP commissioning and portfolios

What are the objectives of the partnership and is your organisation clear about them?

Yes

Is there a satisfactory level of consultation? Are your organisation's views listened to and acted upon?

Often invited to consultation, can we have a few in Wycombe?

What form does your contract with the County Council take (for example is there a service level agreement or any other form of written contract with the Council)?

SLA.

All homes registered

If there is a written contract, how helpful is it? If there is no such document would your organisation find one useful?

SLA.

Annual meeting would be helpful.

What contract monitoring or other monitoring does the County Council carry out?

None.

How time consuming or onerous is the monitoring process?

We make sure we satisfy contract and will communicate outcomes. WDC more involved, but they use us more.

Early Years examining our children's facilities annually.

What problems has your organisation found with the partnership, have they been resolved and how?

Miss regular annual meeting.

What help does the Council provide with training and developing your organisation's staff?

Early Years training and Social Services training.

What more could your organisation do given greater resources and how would it benefit clients?

Big Issue – Not more funding

Develop Aftercare – after school, youth)

- **house for children) Can we use facilities in schools?**
- **sensory room)**

Is your organisation aware of the Bucks Infrastructure Group (BIG) and the proposed Compact? If so, would your organisation see advantages or disadvantages in a compact?

Not sure.

Networking -

- **Rape Crisis**
- **Victim Support**
- **Samaritans**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **ACT**
- **Drugs (Sefton House)**

How could partnerships be made more effective?

Unknown

Could your organisation benefit from closer links with County Councillors?

Already o.k.

It is not an objective of this particular exercise to get into the detail of funding. Nevertheless, it would be helpful to have some thoughts on the following:

How is funding obtained from the County Council?

BCC easy – money arrives

How could the system be improved?

All o.k.

Does the funding provide security for a reasonable period (one, two or three years or more)?

3 years rolling

What additional funding does your organisation have to seek and how time consuming is this?

Chiltern D.C. - £7K

S.B. D.C. - £2.5K

+ others

Children in Need? And other one offs

If your organisation receives additional funding, is there any conflict between the requirements of different funding bodies?

None

Do different funding bodies have different monitoring requirements and, if they do, what difficulties does this create?

No

What short-life funding (lottery, charitable trusts etc.) does your organisation receive?

Odd one offs

Christmas time – Lions, churches

What strategy does your organisation have for dealing with the loss of this or any other funding?

None